

In the Abstract:

Delete the Abstract; and insert a new Abstract as follows:

~~--Abstract of the Disclosure--~~

B4 1002797-122001  
A method to increase the stability of the exhaust catalyst of an internal combustion engine. The exhaust gas is purified with respect to volatile phosphorus compounds, such as phosphorous oxides. The metal or metal compound can be metered into the exhaust stream for conversion of the volatile phosphorus compound into non-volatile solid compounds in the exhaust gas upstream of the catalyst. Useful metals or metal compounds based on such metals include: Group 1A metals such as Li, Na or K; Group 1B metals such as Cu or AG; Group 2A metals such as Mg or Ca; Group 3A metals such as Al, Y or the rare earth metals. Alternatively, the metal compound, which acts as an absorber, can be located between the engine and the exhaust catalyst supported on a metal or cordierite support in the form of a honeycomb.

In the Specification:

Amend the second paragraph on page 3 to the following:

B2  
"This is achieved according to the invention with the method presented in claim 1. Claims 2 to 4 give advantageous embodiments of the method according to the invention."

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1-4 as follows:

B3  
1. (Amended) A method of increasing the stability of catalysts for purifying exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine of the type